



ADVANCE Quarterly Report

October – December 2012

PREPARED FOR USAID

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I. BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

A. Activity Summary

Implementing Partner: Pact, Inc.
Activity Name: Advocacy, Awareness, and Civic Empowerment (ADVANCE) Program
Activity Objectives: Strengthened civil society organization (CSO) capacity for effective program and financial management Increased CSO capacity for effective advocacy for key policy reforms such as budget transparency, access to information, and judicial oversight Strengthened public-private partnerships to fight corruption through public oversight agencies and initiatives
USAID/Nigeria SO: SO11: Strengthened Foundations for Democratic Governance/Governing Justly and Democratically
Life of Activity (start and end dates): May 23, 2005 through March 31, 2013
Total Estimated Contract/Agreement Amount: \$13,473,848.00
Obligations to date: \$13,473,848.00
Current Pipeline Amount: \$ \$739,269.00 of which \$ 772,893.00 is already obligated to sub grantees plus other commitments and therefore not available for any purpose; leaving nothing in the pipeline (\$33,623.00)
Accrued Expenditures this Quarter (October – December 2012): \$ 374,737.00
Activity Cumulative Accrued Expenditures to Date: \$ \$12,734,579.00
Estimated Expenditures Next Quarter: \$ 213,537.00
Report Submitted by: Ahmed N Mohammed, Pact Nigeria Deputy Country Director and ADVANCE Chief of Party.

List of Acronyms

ADVANCE	---Advocacy, Awareness and Civic Empowerment Project
ANEEJ	---African Network for Environment and Economic Justice
ARRDEC	--- Antof Rural Resource Development Centre
BANGOF	- Bayelsa Non-Governmental Forum
CISLAC	---Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre
CITAD	---Centre for Information Technology and Development
CIEPD	---Community Initiative for Enhanced Peace and Development
CSO	---Civil Society Organization
FOI	----Freedom of Information
JDPC	----Justice Development Peace/Caritas Calabar Archdiocese
JONAPWD	---Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities
LITE	----- Leadership Initiative for Transformation and Empowerment
MRA	---Media Rights Agenda
MERL	---Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning
MULAC	---Muslim League for Accountability
NEITI	-----Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI)
NPWP	---National Procurement Watch Platform
NCDF	---Nembe City Development Foundation
NGO	----Non Governmental Organization
OCA	----Organizational Capacity Assessment
PIND	---Partnering in the Niger Delta
PIRS	-----Performance Indicator Reference sheet
PDT	---Performance Data Table
PPDC	---Public Private Development Centre
PWYP	--Publish What You Pay
ZCC	--- Zero Corruption Coalition

B. Summary of Outputs

Management outputs

Pact continued its commitment to developing and strengthening the capacity of its partners by providing standard consistent and continuous mentoring, oversight, technical and financial support in program implementation, reporting and oversight with regards to existing sub grantees. Consequently, Pact/ADVANCE provided primary capacity development and grants/program management accomplishments, such as grants making, fund disbursements, oversight and mentoring of partners. The period also witnessed modifications of some partners' proposals while some partners were assisted to close out their projects financially. Pact also supported its partners to produce financial reports and conducted end of project Organizational and Advocacy Capacity assessments (OCA/ACA) and re-assessment of partners' capacity, which informed the kind of grants provided. Below is the summary of program management accomplishments for the quarter:

- Provided both technical and financial support to ADVANCE partners
- Ensured that partner programmatic calendar and budget are in line with their approved projects' proposals by Pact/ADVANCE
- Facilitated disbursement of funds to some ADVANCE/ADVANCE-PIND partners (MRA, Centre LSD, PPDC, ANEEJ, ZCC, CISLAC, CITAD, NPWP, JONAPWD, FOFA, NCDF, ARRDEC, JDP Caritas, BANGOF, CEIPD and LITE-Africa) for continuous implementation of their projects.
- Finalized project proposals of the outstanding ADVANCE/PIND partner CSOs and awarded 7 new Grants to them for implementation of their approved projects
- Continued the provision of capacity development to partner CSOs through technical support including mentoring and coaching to ensure effective and timely implementation of partners' programmatic activities as well as strengthening of their systems and processes.

Program outputs

Program outputs are detailed in Section II. A quick summary of results of this quarter by Pact/ADVANCE is as follows:

- Trained some of ADVANCE CSO Partners on Network strengthening.
- Supported ADVANCE CSO partner (ZCC) to revamped its newsletter and website
- Supported ADVANCE CSO partner (PWYP) to host National CSOs' Consultative Meeting on setting agenda for CSO Representative on NEITI Board
- Supported ADVANCE CSO partner (CITAD) to successfully organize training for CSO's and Journalist on procurement monitoring.
- Centre LSD holds end of project Press Briefing; supports radio program on Increased Citizens' Participation in budgeting.
- Strengthened both ADVANCE and PIND CSO partners' systems and processes through mentoring, monitoring and coaching.
- Supported ADVANCE CSO partner (CITAD) to facilitated technical training for staff of Bauchi state Directorate of Due Process and Procurement Officers from select ministries

- Centre LSD supports BANGOF to track Bayelsa State budget
- PPDC supports CSO representatives to test FOIA in target MDAs

C. Recent Programmatic Context

Public Procurement Act (PPA)

The Public Procurement Act which was passed in 2007 with full compliance in relation to access to information and participation by non-state actors is progressively achieving its objectives as it continues to contend with challenges in implementation. A case in point is the provision contained in section 19 of the PPA which stipulates that in a procurement implementation process, an NGO working on anti-corruption shall be invited in addition with other bodies to observe the bid process. In terms of section 19 of the Public Procurement Act (PPA), CSOs and professional bodies can only be invited by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to monitor a procurement process if they have been accredited by the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP). The BPP had begun the process of accrediting CSO to monitor procurement processes. Till date, only 37 monitors have been accredited, a feat which was achieved as a result of the active engagement of the NPWP with funding from Pact Nigeria. It must be stated however that as of now, there is no set out process for accreditation of trained monitors, and the Government seems to be dragging its feet to set up one.

Furthermore, despite the funding received from Pact Nigeria's ADVANCE program by the NPWP' Project on *"Improved Citizen Participation in Public Procurement in Nigeria"* which developed a standard procurement reporting guide for journalists and trained at least 25 media reporters on procurement issues, there is still a huge pool of media reporters who are ignorant of procurement issues resulting in low and poor coverage of the issue. Reporters do not just need to be aware of procurement issues, their capacity needs to be improved in order to know how to investigate and report these issues appropriately for better public participation. This is why NPWP with support from the ADVANCE program is carrying out advocacies to media houses to enlist their support and seek for collaboration in training media officers on Investigative Reporting around the public procurement process.

Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI)

Nigerians continued to engage with the issue of the country being a mono economy as well as the effect of having crude oil as the major source of funding. Civil society groups continued to call for a continuous regular yearly comprehensive auditing of the extractive sector, implementation of remediation actions as well as improved accountability on the part of operators and regulators in the sector. Pact/ADVANCE partner (PWYP) took a lead in organizing CSOs to demand for a more inclusive, accountable and transparent extractive industry regime.

Public Finance Management:

Towards the end of the year, for the first time since the advent of the current administration, President Goodluck Jonathan presented the national budget to the law makers well ahead of time. A total budget of N4.98trillion with capital budget being pegged at N1.6trillion, representing 32 per cent of the entire budget was forwarded by National Assembly to the president for signing. This irked some social critics, who insisted that best practice in budgeting prescribes zero budgeting and the need to allocate much more funds for Nigeria's dilapidated infrastructure. But Finance Minister Ngozi Okonjo Iweala came to the government's rescue, explaining that given the new threat of terrorism and its implication for security of lives and property, the government was gradually

reducing re-current expenditure though it still needs to allocate more funds to secure lives and property in the country.

“Government is also determined to reduce the cost of governance. We are reviewing the recommendations aimed at rationalizing Agencies of the Federal Government with overlapping functions. This has been taken into account in the preparation of the 2013 Budget, and we expect some modest cost savings from this exercise in the course of the 2013 fiscal year. However, more significant progress will be made in 2014, as we work with the Legislature to harmonize those Agencies that have enabling laws, but which also have duplicative mandates,” President Jonathan affirmed in his budget speech at the National Assembly (October 12, 2012).

Freedom of Information (FOI)

Following series of training on guidelines for operationalizing the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act at the national level, there is now increased awareness about the provisions of the Act. With this, many civil society groups are supporting and encouraging members to test the FOI law by requesting for information from relevant government agencies. In addition, Pact/ADVANCE sub-grantees have continued to conduct Train-of-Trainers workshops to build capacity of CSOs with a view to empowering them to request for and obtain information on public procurement and other operations of government from public servants.

Insecurity

Between October and December 2012, there were insecurity and general threats to lives and property in some states. The spate of bombing, kidnapping and robberies abated towards the end of the quarter.. In the northern part of Nigeria, series of bombing were however recorded and this resulted in some trainings of ADVANCE being moved to the southern part of the country. However, our partners in Bauchi and Kaduna were able to hold their program activities in spite of the general insecurity being experienced. Given the yuletide season and the attendant celebrations, police and military presence was increased and quite visible in most parts of the country and this built confidence amongst Nigerians as to the ability of law enforcement agencies to protect lives and property.

II. QUARTER PROGRESS

A. Program Management

During the quarter, Pact/ADVANCE continued to provide support to its CSO partners through coaching, mentoring, oversight, technical and financial support in program implementation and reporting. Between October and December 2012, the ADVANCE project supported its CSO partners to review and approve partners' proposals by ensuring- that they are in compliance with the demand of the ADVANCE project. In the last quarter, the ADVANCE had cumulatively supported a total of (92) subprojects (up from the 85 reported in the previous quarter) including a total of 18 on-going sub projects i.e. MRA, Centre LSD, PPDC, ANEEJ, ZCC, CISLAC, CITAD, NPWP, MULAC, PWYP, JONAPWD, FOFA, NCDF, ARRDEC, JDP Caritas, BANGOF, CEIPD and LITE. The cumulative number of CSO partners being supported is 44.

Regional/HQ Support

Pact Headquarters continued its usual support to Pact Nigeria through information sharing and by providing technical advice on issues that have enhanced the management of the ADVANCE program in Nigeria. A major support provided and which is ongoing is in the area of ensuring proper close out of the ADVANCE project.

The quarter also witnessed the visit of Kerry Bruce, Pact Global Director of Results and Measurement who was in Abuja, Nigeria between the 7th and 19th of October 2012 to provide technical support to Pact Nigeria MERL unit. While in Nigeria, she supported the ADVANCE team by providing technical assistance in the area of tracking and reporting on final OCA/AI analysis of organizational capacity index and advocacy capacity index. The ADVANCE MERL specialist, Ibrahim Sanusi worked with Kerry to set up the structure of the proposed final database for the OCA/AI analysis.

In addition to the individual support she gave to Pact MERL Unit, on Monday 15 October, the entire Pact Nigeria MERL team held a one day MERL refresher/orientation for all Nigeria MERL staff. The refresher training was to provide a general overview on how Pact engages in Monitoring Evaluation Reporting and Learning. Discussion centered also on Pact manuals for Monitoring and Evaluation, how the manual has been used by the various projects; Pact's DQA manual; evaluation; Data Winners presentation which was conducted by – David McAfee of DataWinners; Mobenzi-Using Mobile Technology to collect data amongst others.

Collaboration with USAID Implementing Partners (IPs)

During the quarter, Pact/ADVANCE project had a one day meeting with the Nigeria Monitoring Evaluation and Management Services II (NMEMS II). The meeting which was held on 14th December 2012 had in attendance Nura Nasir, Maiwada Zubairu all of NMEMS II and Olayinka Martins of LEAD in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm on how best NMEMS II will support IPs' performance management system. The deliberation was focused on activities that NMEMS II will be implementing in FY13 in support of IPs' performance management, which include: Trainings, Data Quality Assessment (indicators due/status + schedule), Performance Reporting System (PRS), Quarterly Analytical Performance Report, PMP Review and Brown Bag session:

Pact/ADVANCE also engaged with USAID/NMEMS II in updating the Performance Reporting Sheets (PRS) including targets and actual results for FY 2012, 4th quarters. Pact ADVANCE worked with USAID/NMEMS II in providing relevant data for the quarters as required by NMEMS II.

Pact/ADVANCE further engaged with Interfaith Mediation Centre (IMC) Kaduna. The Centre received funding from USAID Nigeria for implementation of a project tagged "Training of Leaders for Religious and National Coexistence (TOLERANCE)." During the period under review, Pact/ADVANCE provided technical support in recruitment of qualified staff that will form the team to ensure that the strategic objective of the project is realized.

Collaboration with other Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDA's) / Other Donors

1. MRA and PPDC partners engaged government agencies on Freedom of Information (FOI)

ADVANCE partner CSO -MRA and PPDC engaged government agencies on FOI. Given various efforts by CSO representatives to request for and obtain information from various MDAs, it became obvious that some agencies had not quite imbibed the provisions of the law by releasing information with ease or without justification as provided in the law. Therefore, PPDC and MRA received support from

Pact/ADVANCE to increase advocacy to regulatory agencies in order to secure their support for the timely release of information, especially information about public procurement.

2. PWYP partners with NEITI to engage government on release of audit report and implementation of remedial actions

With the appointment of PWYP into the NEITI board, the organization intensified efforts to obtain NEITI support to advocate with the Federal government to give more bite to the issue of constant neglect of implementing remedial actions prescribed in various audit reports. It also complemented NEITI's efforts in advocating with the Federal Government to release for the first time the non-oil extractive industry audit.

3. ARRDEC partners with Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the FADAMA project in Akwa Ibom State

In the delivery of its project, ARRDEC worked closely with the Akwa Ibom State Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the FADAMA project Team to implement its activity with focus on tackling governance impediments to livelihood enhancement. Both institutions and the Bureau of Co-operatives have shown firm commitment to ensuring the success of the project and, are providing the core technical facilitators to ensure that best practice approach are achieved.

General Portfolio Management

During the quarter under review, the ADVANCE had cumulatively supported a total of (92) subprojects (up from the 85 reported in the previous quarter) including a total of 18 on-going sub projects i.e. MRA, Centre LSD, PPDC, ANEEJ, ZCC, CISLAC, CITAD, NPWP, MULAC PWYP, JONAPWD, FOFA, NCDF, ARRDEC, JDPC Caritas, BANGOF, CIEPD, And LITE. The cumulative number of CSO partners being supported remained at 44.

Sub-grants Finances

During this reporting period, Pact ADVANCE project continued to service the existing partners with on-going projects and an additional sum of **\$260,043.83** was disbursed to some partners (CISLAC, MULAC, ZCC, PPDC, CITAD, ANEEJ, PWYP, NPWP, ACLSD, MRA, FOFA, NCDF, ARRDEC and LITE) which all have on-going sub projects. This brings the cumulative disbursements/advances for all subgrants as of the end of this quarter to **\$4,146,379.07** (up from **\$3,886,335.24** in the previous quarter and excluding consultancies/in-kind subgrants). Of that amount, the sub grantees have expended and retired/liquidated a total of **\$4,071,655.02** to date (up from **\$3,946,232.22** reported in the previous quarter, and excluding consultancies/in-kind subgrants). Expenditures this quarter on in-kind subgrants is **\$196,415.79** thus, the cumulative expenditures incurred on consultancies/in-kind subgrants is at **\$847,273.91** to date (up from **\$650,858.12** as reported in the previous quarter. Together, the cumulative grand total of expenditures at the end of this quarter, based on retirements/liquidations of subgrants including expenses from in-kind support and consultancies stands at **\$4,993,652.98** (up from **\$4,537,193.36** in the last quarter). Table 1 below provides a summary of current subgrants recipients (including those receiving in-kind support) along with each sub grantee's obligated amount, advances/disbursements, expenditures and balances as well as the status of their projects as of the end of this quarter, **December 31, 2012**.

Matrix 1: Summary of Status of ADVANCE Sub-grants and Consultancy (Advances and Actual Expenditures including Balance) as at End of Quarter 1st FY 13 (October to December 2012).



Sub-Grant-Matrix
(SGM)

Matrix 2: Summary Status of ADVANCE In-Kind (Advances and Actual Expenditures including Balance) as at the End of Quarter 1st FY 13 {October to December 2012}.



In-Kind table

B. Programmatic Results

The ADVANCE program's goal is to strengthen capacity of civil society organizations for effective engagement with the Government of Nigeria to ensure inclusive, transparent and accountable governance/governing justly and democratically. It has three primary objectives/outcomes as reflected below.

Objective One: Strengthened Civil Society Organization (CSO) capacity for effective program and financial management

Objective Two: Increased CSO capacity for effective advocacy for key policy reforms and civic participation, including in electoral processes

Objective Three: Strengthened Civil Society/Government partnerships to fight corruption through public oversight agencies and initiatives

During the reporting period, significant progress was made under each of the key ADVANCE program objectives. Programmatic results are thus elaborated below.

Objective 1: Strengthen civil society organization capacity for effective program and financial management

Capacity Development Activities

During the quarter, Pact/ADVANCE worked towards achieving the above mentioned objective through range of capacity development activities including trainings, mentoring and coaching to its CSO partners in order to continuously enhance/develop new skills and reinforcing specific skills gained through other capacity development interventions from the past. This included providing organizational capacity enhancement support through training and on-going mentoring and coaching to both ADVANCE partners (MRA, Centre LSD, PPDC, ANEEJ, ZCC, CISLAC, CITAD, NPWP, MULAC, PWYP and JONAPWD) and PIND partners(ARRDEC, BANGOF, CIEPD, FOFA, NCDF, JDP Caritas, and LITE Africa). There was also technical support to the partners to enable them conduct their activities in conformity with USAID/Pact's granting requirements and rules aside from ensuring the technical quality of such activities.

The specific capacity development activities during the quarter were:

- Network Strengthening training for ADVANCE CSO Partners
- NGO Board Management and Leadership Training for ADVANCE CSO partners

- Mentoring and coaching through phone conversations, facilitation, email correspondence, on site visits to the partner's office etc.

Network Training for ADVANCE CSO partners

Between November 4th and 8th 2012, Pact/ADVANCE organized Network training for some of its CSO partners in Enugu. The training was informed by the need for CSO partners to understand the importance of networking and coalition building. Previous discussions and engagements with the partners showed that most of the partners need to improve their capacity in the area of networking and coalition building; hence the need to strengthen and improve their capacity became necessary. A total of 32 participants (22 Males and 10 Females) attended the training from 7 Coalition/Networks. They are (ZCC, PWYP, IMC, NPWP, MULAC, JONAPWD and FOMWAN).

NGO Board Management Training for ADVANCE CSO Partners

During the quarter, Pact/ADVANCE facilitated 4-day training on NGO Board Development/Management and Leadership. The objective of the training was to provide participants with the opportunity to improve their management, leadership skills and to understand major issues in NGO Governance and Leadership. About 2 representatives each from 8 partner organizations (Centre LSD, CITAD, CISLAC, ZCC, MULAC, NPWP, ANEEJ and PWYP) with a total of 15 (12 males and 3 females) participants attended the training.

Capacity Development Community of Practice Meeting for Pact Nigeria Staff

ADVANCE capacity development team participated in the maiden Capacity Development (CD) Community of Practice workshop between the 11th and 14th of November 2012 in Nigeria. 18 staff representing the ADVANCE, LEAD, BMGF MNCH and Chevron projects came together for the 4- day experience sharing and promotion of cross-learning among projects, skills mapping to identify expertise within the team, discussion on global trends in capacity development and its integration into projects and improvement of synergy between CD staff across projects.

The workshop was facilitated by Pact's Global Director for Capacity Development, Matt Reeves, along with other staff from Pact Nigeria country office.

Objective 2: Increase CSO capacity for effective advocacy for key policy reforms and civic participation.

Between October and December, ADVANCE partners engaged with various policy makers with a view to influencing effective implementation of targeted policies/laws as well as the enactment of new targeted legislations. Partner activities targeted the Freedom of Information law, Public Procurement law and Fiscal Responsibility Bill, Disability Bill, Livelihoods and the budget. Below are summaries of their activities for the quarter:

Public and Private Development Centre (PPDC)

During the quarter, Pact/ADVANCE partner PPDC sought to build on the achievements of earlier intervention through sustained monitoring of the public procurement processes of targeted MDAs at the federal level. Its main focus was supporting non-state actors' monitoring of public procurement process. It therefore worked towards increasing the generation of critically analyzed procurement monitoring reports from the procurement monitoring portal in a bid to ensure the effectiveness of the public procurement system in Nigeria.

Cumulatively 19 reports were completed and submitted on capital projects from various sectors. However given the festive period, some monitors could not receive response from the ministries where they had submitted their requests. Given the perceived reluctance on the part of a number of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to respond to requests within the requisite seven- day deadline or 14 days at the most, PPDC decided to conduct an advocacy visit to regulatory bodies to encourage them to persuade their staff to assist in efforts to ease the process.

Therefore, on 18th of December, 2012, PPDC wrote a letter to the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) requesting the agency as a regulator of public procurement processes in Nigeria to intervene in easing the assessment of procurement information. This letter was necessitated by complaints from procurement monitors, whose activities were incapacitated by the refusal of certain MDAs, to provide timely access to procurement information. The monitors were able to compile a list of MDAs, which responded positively to requests and those which often ignored or gave excuses for not providing information requested.

PPDC continued to gather and disseminate procurement news through her mailing list. The Procurement Bulletin for December highlighted the use of film and media technology to spread the values of Due Process in Nigeria. This was in time for the HOMEVIDA Annual Award event held on the 9th of December celebrating film makers across Nigeria, who mainstream identified laudable values which benefit the society into their movies.

Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ)

On November 22nd, 2012 ANEEJ conducted a one-day Stakeholders' Meeting, with the theme "Providing the platform for stakeholders' engagement with the Bayelsa State Government". The purpose of the meeting was to discuss governance process, need for increased transparency in the running of government business as well as need for key functionaries to be more accountable. The meeting provided opportunity for stakeholders to review developments in Bayelsa State, with respect to the performance of the Governor Seriake Dickson led administration and to put forward a well-articulated position on key governance issues. Participants also discussed Citizens' Responsibility to Governance, modalities and best practices in policy formulation and Implementation. Some of the key position identified by the participants includes the need for the current administration to make more inclusive and participatory decisions as well as make financial expenditure in the state more transparent. This decision was passed on to the new administration with the hope that they would form part of government's planning process.

While on December 13th, 2012 ANEEJ carried out an advocacy visit to the office of the President of the Senate. The Advocacy visit is part of ANEEJ's continued engagement on the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) to lend support to efforts at bringing about a complete reform in the Petroleum Industry and halt the lacuna that exists in the industry, thereby promoting transparency and accountability in the management of the nation's oil revenue.

ANEEJ also organized capacity building workshop for staff of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and civil society organizations in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. The training was designed to increase awareness on the provisions of the Public Procurement and Fiscal Responsibility Laws in Bayelsa state. It also sought to develop the capacity of CSOs and representatives of target MDAs

towards improving the implementation of the state's Public Procurement and Fiscal Responsibility laws.

Zero Corruption Coalition (ZCC)

On 15th October, 2012 ZCC, conducted a One Day Capacity Building Training for CSOs on the Management of Nigeria's Oil Revenues. The event which took place at the Bolton White Hotel in Abuja, was informed by the need to increase knowledge and improved participants' skills on requesting for information regarding the management of Nigeria's oil income. The training focused on making Requests for Information regarding oil revenue and approaches to achieving the required information. A total of 26 participants attended the training (18 Males 8 Females)

Media Rights Agenda (MRA)

Media Rights Agenda carried out sensitization workshops for representatives of grassroots and civil society organizations in three states namely: Imo (Owerri) in the South-east, Edo (Benin City), South-south and Nasarawa (Lafia), North-central.

The one-day sensitization and awareness generation workshop on the Freedom of Information Act for civil society and grassroots organizations was conducted in Owerri, Imo State, on Tuesday, October 16, 2012. The objectives of the workshop was to reach out to organizations in the South East geo-political zone; to familiarize them with the content of the Act which will enable them create further awareness about it in their communities and seek ways of ensuring that the organizations mainstream the Act in the work they do.

During the workshop, participants engaged in lively exchange of views, making insightful comments, relating organizational challenges and sharing of experiences on how to use the Act in the sectors where they work. At the end of the workshop, participants agreed that the FOI Act is an important law that will be useful in assessing the performance of public officials in procurement and budget implementation, among other areas. For most of the participants, this was their first attempt and contact with the FOI and they were excited to find out that no special groups of persons had the exclusive preserve to request for information. They therefore pledged to identify high profile projects to request for procurement information from presiding MDAs. A total of 52 (33Males 19Females) participants attended the workshop.

The FOI sensitization workshop in Benin City took place on October 30, 2012 with a total of 55 participants (39 Males 16 Females) in attendance while that of Lafia, Nasarawa State took place on December 7, 2012 and had 45 participants (29 Male 16 Females). All the workshops brought together participants representing groups that focus on various thematic areas including gender, children, health, youth, persons with disability, etc. For the Benin and Lafia, participants were more interested in the fact that no information should be kept from the courts and that if their requests were ignored or refused, MRA would be willing to support them to obtain redress. Indeed, they had a hands-on experience of producing requests to be submitted to the sectors of their choice.

There were also advocacy visits to the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation and the relevant Committees of the National Assembly. MRA has engaged various officers in the Office of the Attorney-General of the Federation on a variety of issues relating to the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act, particularly on the need to make the Attorney-General's Implementation Guidelines more widely available to public institutions and train representatives of the various institutions on the modalities for responding to application for requests.

Media Rights Agenda also held advocacy meetings with key staff working on Freedom of Information in the office of the Attorney-General of the Federation and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters, Senator Umaru Dahiru. There were also advocacy visits to the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation and the relevant Committees of the National Assembly.

Prof. Deji Adegunle, the Senior Special Assistant to the Attorney-General of the Federation, subsequently, indicated to MRA that the Attorney-General would be reviewing the guidelines before reprinting copies. He solicited comments and input from MRA on the current guidelines. MRA used the opportunity to submit a Memorandum to the Office of the Attorney-General of the Federation with comments and recommendations for inclusion in the revised guidelines as a way of addressing the identifiable inadequacies in the current implementation framework for the FOI Act.

Following the discussions with officials of the legal drafting units of the Office/Ministry, the MRA team was told that the Ministry was in agreement with all the observations and comments as well as recommendations contained in MRA's Memorandum and assured the team that the recommendations would be reflected in the final version of the revised Guidelines. Following this highly successful advocacy meetings, MRA was subsequently informed by Prof Adegunle that the Attorney-General of the Federation had set up an expert panel to lead the review of the Guidelines and that MRA's Executive Director, Mr. Edetaen Ojo, had been appointed a member of the expert panel to assist the Ministry with the revision exercise. Some of the recommendations include that dedicated information officers be compelled to give account of the number of persons who requested for information, the response of the various ministries among others.

Centre for Information and Technology (CITAD)

During the quarter, CITAD with support from Pact/ADVANCE engaged in advocacy and capacity building for the Effective Implementation of Public Procurement and Fiscal Responsibility Law in Bauchi State.

On Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th October, 2012 CITAD conducted a training workshop on procurement monitoring for CSOs, Journalists and BACIPEM (Civil Society Coalition) members. The workshop's objectives among others were to develop the capacity of CSOs on how and what to monitor on Public Procurement and provide a better understanding of Procurement law in Bauchi state. The working session provided participants with the knowledge of Public Procurement Processes within the context of the Law. A total of 21 participants (14 Males, 8 females) from 22 different CSOs/CBOs attended the training.

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC)

On December 11, 2012 CISLAC organized a Roundtable with Legislators on the NEITI Process Audit and Emerging Issues. The Roundtable was held at the National Assembly Complex in Abuja with a total of 40 participants (36 Males 4 Females), which included Legislators from the House Committees on Petroleum downstream, Upstream, Solid Minerals, Public Account and Gas Resources, the Executive Secretary of the NEITI Secretariat, select CSOs and the media. The major outcome of the roundtable included an assurance by the legislators that the budget for the NEITI secretariat will be reviewed upwards to accommodate their needs and enable them conduct all the audits necessary. They also made a commitment to support the Fiscal Audit proposed. There was also an assurance to accord all stakeholders equal opportunity to make input into the PIB during the Public hearing unlike the previous occasions which were skewed in favor of International Oil Companies.

Joint National Association of Persons With Disabilities (JONAPWD)

The first activity conducted by JONAPWD for the quarter was the Zonal Advocacy Visit to Jigawa state. The event brought together change champion agents from the government, religious and traditional institutions and a diverse membership of JONAPWD to discuss how best to push for the passage of the disability bill into law.

At the end of the visit, traditional and religious institutions made commitment to present the issues discussed at the meeting to the Jigawa State House of Assembly Speaker. It is expected that the message from the advocacy visit would be channeled to the President of Nigeria through the Governors' Forum, which would be presented by the Jigawa State Governor. The Jigawa state advocacy visit was a very interesting and unprecedented, it was a grassroots meetings where everyone got involved. In order to make the meeting accessible, most of the proceedings were conducted in the local language of the people, present also were sign language interpreters for effective participation of the deaf. 54 (39 Males 15 Females) participants were in attendance during the visit.

JONAPWD also aired some jingles within the quarter which was aired by Kapital FM (92.9 FM) in Abuja on Dec. 15th, 2012. The airings were fixed strategically towards greater audiences and at appropriate times. For example, there were slots for around 10.05 am (a peak period) on Saturdays and about 1:20 pm on Tuesdays. This is strategic as it comes on just before a sponsored Disability programme on the channel from 1:30 pm.

National Procurement Watch Platform (NPWP)

On 18th October 2012, NPWP conducted one-day training in Abuja for CSOs and professional bodies. 26 participants (15 males and 11 females) attended. Participants were taken through the role of the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP), organization of procurement, procurement methods, special and restricted methods of procurement and effective use of procurement observers' checklist for monitoring, which formed part of the key topics treated during the training..

While on 31st October 2012, NPWP conducted a one-day capacity building training on public procurement for media practitioners. The event which was held in Abuja was very interactive and was well attended by 15 media organizations that were represented by their reporters. During the training, participants were taken through investigative reporting guidelines for journalists on procurement amongst other topics. At the end of the sessions, the participants appreciated the knowledge imparted on them and made promise of passing on and creating awareness on the training they received.

In addition to the trainings, NPWP also held two exchange sessions for CSOs and media reporters. The exchanges were follow-up to the two trainings carried out for CSOs and the Media with the objectives to cumulatively share experiences gathered in the area of public procurement monitoring and reporting ; explore ways of increased effectiveness and transparency in the sector and to discuss some of the challenges encountered.

Finally, NPWP has collated the reports of the activities carried out and papers presented at various trainings for publication and it is currently with the printers.

Publish What You Pay (PWYP)

PWYP made concerted efforts to meet with high ranking public officers so as to convince them of the critical nature of their demand for increased democratic dividends for the people through transparent and accountable operations of the extractive industry.

PWYP held the National Stakeholders' Meeting, which deliberated on how civil society groups should engage with the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) through its National Stakeholders' Working Group (NSWG). Participants listened to presentations from various resource

persons on issues of transparency in the industry as well as best practices world- wide. Other issues discussed at the meeting include environmental reclamation in the Niger-Delta area; engaging the Governors' Forum; tackling the gas flaring and climate change; empowering citizens at community level to participate in the NEITI process etc.

On Wednesday, November 21, 2013, five representatives (3 Males and 2 Females) of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from PWYP, National Procurement Watch, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre, Zero Corruption and Gender and Economic Advancement Initiative met with the chair, House Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream), Honorable Dakuku Peterside. During the visit, leader of the CSO group, Mr. Salaudeen Mohammed, presented the advocacy brief on behalf of the visiting members. Concerns expressed during the visit centered on issues around resource leakages and huge corruption in the industry; the disconnect between resource management and actual remittance between the chains of Ministries, Departments and Agencies as well as the mild sanctions provided for in the NEITI Act against erring companies amongst others. The chair commended the group for their interest and commitment to improving the sector and pledged to engage with the issues raised.

While on November 27th, 2012 PWYP team paid an advocacy visit to Honorable Muraina Saubana Ajibola, Chair House Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream) at the National Assembly. During this visit, PWYP Program Officer, Oluwaseyi Moses, briefed Honorable Muraina Ajibola of the activities of PWYP in Nigeria and at the international level. He told the minister that the mandate of PWYP is to call for the mandatory disclosure of extractive industry payments to the government and receipts of revenue from the extractive industries. "PWYP believes in the principle of transparency and accountability which at the time of its launch in Nigeria was crucial to advancing good governance. The advocacy visit also touched on lack of synergy between the various covered entities such as DPR, NNPC, CBN and FIRS; the resultant effect of having each of these entities presenting different figures as payments made by different oil companies. In his response, the minister said it was necessary to build synergy among stakeholders and regulators in the field.

Muslim League for Accountability (MULAC)

On October, 4th 2012, MULAC conducted a one-day media advocacy meeting. The meeting was organized for 31 select media practitioners in Kaduna State at Tafawa Balewa Guest Inn, Angwar Rimi, Kaduna in North West Nigeria. A total of 31 participants (4 females, 27 males) attended the program. The purpose of the meeting was to garner media support for the proposed Kaduna FOI bill and to work out best ways of engaging with the state legislature. During the meeting, participants deliberated in groups and made recommendations on the way forward. They agreed to collaborate with CSOs and other professional bodies to push for the passage of the bill in Kaduna State.

MULAC also paid a one-day advocacy visit to Honorable Mohammed Shuaibu, a member of the Kaduna State House of Assembly on Tuesday 27th November, 2012 at his office at the State House of Assembly. The purpose of the visit was to persuade the Honorable member to join in the crusade to pass the bill into law. MULAC's Executive Director, Mallam Yusuf Arrigassiyu gave an opening speech. In his speech, he traced the efforts so far made by MULAC to create awareness to various stakeholders/sectors about the need to pass the FOI bill into law in Kaduna State. He appealed for support from both State House of Assembly Members and media personnel in attendance to continue the advocacy in sensitizing other members of the State House of Assembly on the benefits of the FOI. At the end of the event, Honorable Mohammed Shuaibu was happy to have received MULAC and promised to carry the message further to his colleagues and also lobby them to ensure the speedy passage of the bill into law in Kaduna state. A total of 10 (9 males 1 Female) participants were present during the visit.

Finally, on December 13, MULAC met with legislative aides to principal officers at the Kaduna State House of Assembly to persuade them to support their principal officers to work towards ensuring the passage of the FOI bill in that state. The aides were drawn from three political parties within Kaduna State comprising the PDP, ACN and CPC. There were (21 males and 1 female) participants who deliberated on the proposed areas of intervention. The aides pledged to brief their principal officers on the need to support the passage of the FOI bill in Kaduna State.

PIND Partners

Antof Rural Resource and Development Centre (ARRDEC)

As a way to sustain the gains of its earlier project which sought to improve rural community members' access to and use of the FADAMA III Grant, ARRDEC began strengthening the capacity of farmers' groups in 3 LGAs of Akwa Ibom State to benefit from government initiated Agricultural Programs for peaceful and socio-economic growth of their LGAs with special interest on Mbo, Udung Uko and Okobo, the three (3) LGAs in Oro Nation which are not benefiting from FADAMA III Grants.

The advocacy to the Akwa Ibom State Ministry of Agriculture for the inclusion of target beneficiaries of the project in Mbo, Okobo and Udung Uko LGAs, in state Agric Programs was interspersed with various interface meetings with farmers, Agric./LGA officials, Radio Discussion on Akwa Ibom Broadcasting Corporation (AKBC) with attendant significant changes from LG authorities and target beneficiaries such as provision of communal land for farming in Udung Uko LGA, validation of the registration of twenty-four (24) farmers' groups with the Bureau of Cooperatives and the identification of farmers' groups with All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN).

Field visits and sessions to capture Most Significant Change (MSC) were also carried out to ensure alignment of project activities with project objectives.

The first set of interface meetings took place on December 14, 2012 at Udung Uko LGA and separately on December 17, 2012 at Mbo and Okobo LGAs. A total of 45 participants (23 Males, 22 Females) attended the meeting. The purposes of the meeting were to a) adequately sensitize the farmers, relevant local government officials and other stakeholders on the objectives of the project and the requirements for participation of farmers in State Agricultural Programs, and b) facilitate the admission of 75 women, at least 2 youth-focused Farmers Groups and 5 mixed Farmers' Groups into Akwa Ibom State Women Agro Entrepreneurship Development Programme (WAEDEP), Akwa Ibom State Integrated Farmers Scheme (IFS) and Accelerated Live Stock and Fish Production Program (ALFIPP), respectively



Interface meeting with farmers at Udung Uko on Dec. 14, 2012

The second interface meetings were to give feedback on the outcome of ARRDEC's sensitization visits to the State Ministry of Agriculture and the State FADAMA Office. The meetings took place on the December 21, 2012 at Udung Uko LGA and separately on December 24, 2012 at Mbo and Okobo LGAs. A total of 45 participants also attended the meeting (29 Males and 16 Females)

On December 18th 2012, ARRDEC held a meeting with the State FADAMA Coordinator, Mr. Richards Sam. The FADAMA Coordinator, whose office is an integral section of the State Ministry of Agriculture, pledged to support ARRDEC in the strengthening of rural farmers in the focal LGAs to participate in State Agricultural Programme. Mr. Sam also encouraged ARRDEC to emphasize due diligence among the farmers to ensure they are credit-worthy for the State Agricultural Programs.

Following the meeting held in the morning of the 18th December 2012, ARRDEC team also paid a visit to Dr. Itah Daniel Akan, the Permanent Secretary of the Akwa Ibom State Ministry of Agriculture. The Permanent Secretary responded positively to the purpose of the visit as explained by ARRDEC, by stating that he will ensure, within his capacity, the inclusion of the farmers being advocated for by ARRDEC across Udung Uko, Okobo and Mbo LGAs in the State Agricultural Programs. Dr. Nam Okuo Orok, the Ministry's Director of Information, was also appointed by the Permanent Secretary to work with ARRDEC on a Radio Discussion tagged '**Agric. House**', aimed at enlightening the general populace on the State Agric. Program.

Finally, on 20th December 2012, ARRDEC facilitated a radio discussion program with phone-in session. The event took place at Akwa Ibom Broadcasting Corporation (AKBC). The purpose was to further the advocacy for inclusion of target farmers groups in Mbo, Okobo and Udung Uko LGAs in Akwa Ibom State Agricultural Programs and to also enlighten the citizens about the programs..

Leadership Initiative for Transformation and Empowerment (LITE)

During the quarter under review, LITE-Africa staff met with community leaders in four selected pilot communities to sensitize them on the project and secure their buy-in. The community leaders who shared the same ideas and thought applauded the initiative, gave their support and promised to mobilize the communities for a town hall meeting.

LITE-Africa's team organized town hall meetings in two of the four project communities to sensitize community members on key project goals and deliverables. The two communities are Oloibiri in Kolokuma/Opokuma LGA of Bayelsa state and Ohoror in Ughelli North LGA of Delta State. In Olobiri, two groups of 16 members (12 Males and 4 Females) were established and their leadership constituted for each of the group. The project application forms were left with group leaders to be collected on a later date. The community promised to submit names of nominees for membership of Community Advocacy on a later date after deliberations.

Forward Africa (FOFA)

Forward Africa (FOFA) began its project by mobilizing beneficiary communities in the two project states of Abia and Imo. The communities identified and mobilized for the project in the respective states are Ogbaku and Awo-Omamma Town in Imo State; and in Abia State: Okpu- Isingwu and, Ngwu Uzuakoli Community. The primary aim of the mobilization process was to ensure community/beneficiary buy-in, which was achieved without difficulty given the track record of FOFA working in communities within region.

They also organized 3 interactive sessions; first was the plenary where there was a general discussion on the participants' understanding of democracy, good governance and accountability. The participants were meant to understand they are there to learn from everyone and to know what they should do as a community to attract development to their area; as such they should feel free to air their views on the issues being discussed. They discussed on their understanding of democracy, and attitude of some of the elected leaders in terms of their non-accessibility and accountability.

There were a total of 36 participants drawn from men, women and youths and disaggregated into 18 males and 18 females.

In addition, there was an interactive session which was attended by 15 males and 11 females in Imo session, while Abia session had 12 males and 13 females.

Other ADVANCE PIND Partners

For the other ADVANCE PIND Partners (Justice Development and Peace Caritas (JDP Caritas), Bayelsa Non-Governmental Organizations Forum (BANGOF), Nembe City Development Foundation (NCDF), and Community Initiative for Enhanced Peace and Development (CIEPD), the quarter was used mainly to finalize preparations for full steam implementations. They all held pre-project implementation meetings, beneficiaries' and partners' mobilizations, initial one-off activities and concluded project procurements for specific activities to be delivered in the next quarter.

C. Problems and Opportunities

Partner and Programmatic Challenges

- A number of organizations still believe that the work of ensuring that the Freedom of Information Act is effectively implemented is that of the media. Therefore, it remains challenging to convince Nigerians to join hands to pressurize governments to enact the FOI laws at all levels of governance. However the series of trainings are gradually building up group of CSO's to ensure effective implementation of the FOI.
- The recent flood that ravaged parts of the country delayed activities in Bayelsa State as the state was not accessible by road during the flooding period. This delayed the engagement process with some key stakeholders in the state and caused postponement of scheduled activities.
- Some procurement observers were denied access by some agencies such as Central Bank of Nigeria for lack of identification cards. Pact/ADVANCE noted this and advised that any serious organization that want to engage in the procurement process needs to have identification cards for their staff, especially at this period of security challenges in the country.
- The unavailability of the legislators in National Assembly due to the recess remained a challenge. This necessitated the decision to combine some of the visits/session into one as against engaging select committees on two separate occasions. The choice of the National Assembly (NASS) complex for the event was to overcome this challenge.

Administration and Management Challenges

- Delay by some partners to adequately provide response to queries on their financial reports caused delay in disbursements to the affected partners.
- Delay in the obligation of the PIND funds also contributed to delays in making awards to the PIND partner CSOs
- Also, with the exit of one of the coordinators for the ADVANCE project, management decided not to replace him because the project was winding down and it was difficult to get appropriate qualified candidate to take up the job for a very short period. Thus, the partners being managed by the Coordinator was distributed among the rest members of the ADVANCE team, which resulted in increased workload for the members, individually and collectively.

Partner and Programmatic Opportunities

- The Cost extension no doubt provided the opportunity for Pact/ADVANCE to engage its CSO partners in capacity development and trainings. It also provided the opportunity for the project to continue contributing its quota to empowering the Nigerian citizens to participate more vigorously in policy formulation and implementation thereby influencing policies through increased and continuous advocacy to policy makers and implementers.

- Funding of ADVANCE CSO partners, who worked on enhancing freedom of information and ensuring transparent and citizens' participation in public procurement, resulted in the efforts of the two partners being complementary. For instance as MRA built capacity of CSO groups on provisions of FOI, they became empowered to use newly acquired knowledge to request for information about public procurement and expenditure. This resulted in a more concerted effort to sanitize the policy environment through pushing for transparency of the process and accountability of the actors and actresses. This also means that our programming dealt with both demand and supply sides in the equation to improve governance and improve the lot of the average Nigerian.
- Thousands of copies of the Simplified Version of the Freedom of Information Act reprinted in the last quarter, continued to be distributed around the country in this quarter. Grassroots and Civil Society groups were empowered to mainstream and use the FOI Act to enhance their areas of programming. Advocacy meetings were held with key staff at the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation and the leadership of the relevant committees of both chambers of the National Assembly. MRA recommendations were accepted by the Attorney General of the Federation to be included in the amendment of the FOI law at the Federal level to be carried out. MRA's Executive Director, Edet Ojo, was appointed into the committee of experts to review progress made in the implementation of the FOI.
- Outcome of the stakeholders' meeting was transmitted to the Bayelsa State Government through the Senior Special Adviser to the Governor on civil society organizations, thus the voices of interest groups demanding for a more efficient procurement process in the state were again amplified.
- In addition, ANEEJ led some other CSOs to add their voices to support the accelerated passage of PIB bill. Community and CSOs positions on the PIB were well articulated and presented to the National Assembly, also as a way of amplifying the community position. ANEEJ provided the platform for stakeholders to review key governance issues affecting Bayelsa State.
- Through its Ministry of Agriculture, the Akwa Ibom State Government has pledged its commitment to ARRDEC's advocacy for the inclusion of rural farmers in Udung Uko, Okobo and Mbo LGAs in its Agric. Programs.
- The current President Jonathan administration's announcement of willingness to engage in policy reforms also provided the opportunity for ADVANCE to support the partner CSOs to engage with government to push for implementation of key reforms (FOI, NEITI, Public Procurement Acts) and enactment of new ones (Petroleum Industry law and Nigerians with disabilities' law). These target areas of programming remain evergreen and will continue to form the nucleus of ADVANCE programming, among others as Pact continues to implement the ADVANCE current cost extension to March 2013.

Lessons Learned

- Procurement monitors need to be actively and consistently involved in procurement monitoring and reporting to ensure that the right to access procurement information is respected and paid heed to across ministries.
- The strength in numbers as Pact/ADVANCE partner-MULAC was able to garner the support of other CSOs and professionals to join the quest for passage of FOI bill in Kaduna state.
- There is the need to establish an effective and workable channel of communication between JONAPWD secretariat and relevant government establishment, which will assist in the planning of activities thereby leading to the overall success of the project and other organizational undertaking.
- With steady engagement and pressure on key government officials, results are achievable. Some prominent members of civil society organizations admitted that some of the issues

with which ANEEJ and other groups had engaged the Bayelsa State Government over the years are now being discussed during the state executive council meetings.

- Practical Implementation of existing important legislation such as the Bayelsa State Public Procurement Law and Bayelsa State Fiscal Responsibility Law can enhance transparency and promote good governance in Bayelsa State. This also applies to other states of the federation
- There is need for consistency in Lobbying and Advocacy on the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) at this point more than ever before, to ensure that the PIB sees the light of the day, more so when a section of the National Assembly appears to be reading ethnic meanings into the proposed reforms.
- Some MDAs have started following the due process in their procurement process. Organizations like National Identity Management Commission and National Automotive Council were identified as such compliant institutions which can hold up as examples of good practices.
- Involving media in the awareness creation to the public has started yielding results as the live radio phone-in program allows the platform to reach more people.
- Adequate information and communication between stakeholders can result in concrete outcomes. The opportunity for 5 committees of the NASS to hear the NEITI secretariat created a rare platform that resulted in a unanimous resolve to work together to ensure improved budgetary allocation to the Secretariat for the audits.
- There is increasing harmony in legislature-CSO reasoning as exemplified by the positions on the proposed PIB. It was instructive to note that there were similar areas of concern and a commitment to collaborate to correct them.
- It is now very clear that with the right approach MDAs can be mobilized behind civil society managed projects. This is clearly exemplified by the level of MDA support received by ARRDEC and JDP Caritas.

Administration and Management Opportunities

- Pact/ADVANCE continued to reap the expected benefits of sharing facilities, logistics and staff time, as well as co-planning activities with Pact's Community REACH (HIV/AIDS), and the LEAD (local governance) programs.

D. Activity Changes and Explanations

- Our partners worked assiduously to meet the deadlines. Activities however slowed down during the festive period. Few that could not be done within the quarter were rescheduled for the next quarter.

E. Success Stories

ADVANCE CSO Partner (MRA) creates awareness: As CSOs continue to push for the effective implementation of FOI Act

Pact/ADVANCE support to MRA has enabled the organization to push for more effective implementation and the process has indeed started yielding great dividends. Apart from the fact that many more individuals and civil society organizations have started testing the FOI law and documenting progress and challenges, several CSOs are planning to come together to present a single case at the appellant court and have that court make pronouncement that would be bidding on all states. This is indeed an outstanding achievement for the project and for Nigeria's Civil Society movement for the full implementation of the FOI regime in Nigeria.

Creating awareness: ADVANCE partner-MRA takes FOI message to the Youth at the local government level

On November 14, 2012, Oriade Youth Association of Nigeria (OYAN) organized a workshop at the hall of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Kirikiri in Oriade Local Council Development Area of Amuwo-Odofin Local Government Area of Lagos. It attracted over 100 youths comprising secondary school students, their teachers, members of the National Youth Service Corps, Girls Brigade and the general public. During the workshop, Mr. Ayode Longe, Senior Program Officer with MRA, was invited to present a paper on the connection between the FOI Act and the environment. He delivered a paper entitled 'Freedom of Information: My Responsibility and Right to Know.

ZCC Increases its Visibility and Programming Impact

With ZCC's programming, it has improved its visibility and reach by revamping of the ZCC newsletter, website and its linkage to social media. It is expected that information on the organization and its programming would be easily accessible to stakeholders across the world. This is of long time organizational and programming sustainability benefit.

Procurement process now online: As Pact ADVANCE partner (PPDC) uploads procurement process on procurement portal

Reaching out to people was a major challenge in terms of the procurement issues. This challenge will soon come to an end as PPDC has moved a step forward by creating a portal where procurement issues could be read, viewed and discussed. This is a success as a lot of Nigerians will now have the avenue to interact, discuss and comment relevant issues regarding the procurement process.

Pact/ADVANCE CSO's partner-CISLAC secure concrete commitment from Legislators to engage National Assembly Committee

The successful mobilization of up to 23 elected members from 5 committees, the securing of a concrete commitment by the legislators to engage the Appropriation committee on behalf of the NEITI secretariat and facilitate upward review of the 2013 budget allocation to ensure successful conduct of all 3 statutory audits are and equal opportunity for input into the PIB unlike the past are success stories recorded during the quarter.

III. HIGHLIGHTS OF PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER

Partners' Activities: The partners with outstanding program activities will implement them next quarter.

Pact/ADVANCE Activities

Next quarter, ADVANCE will do the following:

- NGO Management and Leadership Training for JONAPWD board and Management
- Provide support to partner CSOs in facilitating program activities and trainings
- Work with partners to ensure the completion of outstanding sub grant activities within the project close out schedule
- Continue close out plan for ADVANCE project according to planned schedule
- Training of CSO's on "Stick to the Issues" in Bauchi and Bayelsa State

- End of ADVANCE Learning Forum

IV Quantitative Indicator Data sheet (Program achievement as at December 31, 2012)

Quantitative Indicator Data sheet (Program achievement as at December 31, 2012).				
(Program achievement as at December 31st, 2012)				
#	Ind. Ref #	Indicator	Target for FY 13	Cumulative Result for 1 st Quarter FY 13
			17	10
1		Number of USG-funded organizations representing marginalized constituencies trying to affect government policy or conducting government oversight	W= 8	W= 5
			Y = 2	Y =2
			E = 2	I = 2
			D = 5	D = 1
2	S11.1	Women-focused CSOs supported by USG assistance to engage in advocacy and/or promote democratic participation	20 Women Focused CSOs	12 Women Focused CSOs
5	GJD 4.1.3	Number of CSO advocacy campaigns supported by USG	45 campaigns	18 campaigns
7	GJD 4.1.8	Number of USG Assisted Civil Society Organizations that engage in advocacy and watchdog functions	25 CSOs	5 CSOs
9		Number of people trained (disaggregated by gender)	400	236
			M=300	M=146
			F=100	F=90
12		Increased Civil Society Participation in Budgetary Processes	4	2
			State= 2	State=2
			Nat=N/A	Nat=N/A
13	S11.2.1	Increased Civil Society Participation in NEITI implementation	5	2
14	GJD 4.1.2	Number of Civil Society Organizations using USG assistance to improve internal organizational capacity	18	18